SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY Integrated New Family Opportunities Program – (\$1,470,000 grant)

San Bernardino County is using its MIOCR grant to improve the in-custody mental health screening and assessment process, expand in-custody services with evidence-based treatment options, establish a post-custody reintegration program, and create a Court for Individualized Treatment of Adolescents (i.e., a mental health court) for juvenile offenders detained at the Central Valley facility (the county currently has such a court for offenders detained in the West Valley facility). In addition, the county is using MIOCR funds to enhance peer counseling and other community-based services for eligible 16-18 year participants.

In terms of mental health screening, the county is augmenting its use of the MAYSI-2 with the COMPAS, an assessment instrument that examines environmental, behavioral and attitudinal issues. The county anticipates that approximately 7,500 detained offenders will participate in this comprehensive assessment process.

In-custody services, which are provided through an existing Forensic Adolescent Services Team, are being enhanced through the addition of intensive case management, cognitive behavioral therapy and skills training. Post-custody services, which are provided through a multi-disciplinary Reintegration Team and available on a 24/7 basis, are grounded in the Family Functional Therapy or Assertive Community Treatment model, whichever is more appropriate for the youth and his/her family. To ensure a seamless continuum of services, a dedicated probation officer serves as the liaison between the in-custody and post-custody programs as well as with the mental health court.

The county is also addressing identified gaps in services for 16-18 year old mentally ill offenders by referring eligible participants to the Transitional Age Youth Center, where they can access a variety of drop-in services, including life skills development, 12-Step groups, and peer counseling.

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